

Amendment No. 1 to SB0320

Crowe
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 320*

House Bill No. 289

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-237(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (53).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-239(a), is amended by inserting the following language as a new subdivision:

() Tennessee state medical examiner advisory council, created by § 38-7-201;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-7-201, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) There is created the Tennessee state medical examiner advisory council. The council shall consist of eighteen (18) members, each of whom shall be a resident of this state. The governor shall appoint two (2) members from each regional forensic center, three (3) county medical examiners that are not forensic pathologists and are not employees of the health department, one (1) representative from the district attorneys conference, one (1) representative from the Tennessee bureau of investigation, one (1) representative from the Tennessee association of chiefs of police, one (1) representative from the Tennessee sheriffs' association, and the state chief medical examiner, who shall serve as chair and as an ex-officio voting member.

(2) All regular appointments to the council shall be for terms of three (3) years each.

(3) Members may serve unlimited consecutive terms.

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(4) Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed.

(5) Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the commissioner for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(b) Each member of the council shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(c) Meetings shall be held at least twice a year with additional meetings as frequently as may be required.

(d) The council shall have the power and duty to:

(1) Review candidates and make a recommendation to the commissioner of health on the appointment of the state chief medical examiner;

(2) Assist the state chief medical examiner in the development and updating of standards for death investigations, to be promulgated as rules through the department of health;

(3) Issue an annual report on death investigations in this state once a uniform state case management system is established;

(4) Provide reports and recommendations to the commissioner on causes of death which may need public health intervention, funding issues, information technology needs, and any other issues as the council sees fit; and

(5) Provide formal recommendations to professional boards when a county medical examiner, county medicolegal death investigator, or forensic pathologist engages in illegal, inappropriate, or unethical conduct.

(e) In the event of disputes arising from fatality review boards, the council shall have the authority to review such cases and make recommendations.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.